

Message Text

SECRET

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43

ACTION SS-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 NSCE-00 DODE-00 CIAE-00 INRE-00

ACDE-00 /026 W

----- 086991

P R 061415Z FEB 76

FM USDEL SALT TWO GENEVA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 2931

INFO AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

USMISSION NATO

S E C R E T SALT TWO GENEVA 0012

EXDIS/SALT

DEPT ALSO PASS DOD

SPECAT EXCLUSIVE FOR SECDEF

E.O. 11652: XGDS-1

TAGS: PARM

SUBJECT: AMBASSADOR JOHNSON'S STATEMENT OF FEBRUARY 6, 1976

(SALT TWO - 897)

THE FOLLOWING IS STATEMENT DELIVERED BY AMB. JOHNSON

AT THE SALT TWO MEETING OF FEB. 6, 1976.

STATEMENT BY AMBASSADOR JOHNSON

FEBRUARY 6, 1976

MR. MINISTER:

I

AT OUR MEETING ON JANUARY 30, I PROPOSED NEW LANGUAGE
FOR PARAGRAPH 7 OF ARTICLE II OF THE JOINT DRAFT TEXT TO CARRY OUT
THE INTENT OF THE RECENT DISCUSSIONS IN MOSCOW RELATING TO THE
DEFINITION OF A HEAVY ICBM. AT OUR MEETING ON FEBRUARY 3, THE

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SOVIET DELEGATION PROPOSED NEW WORDING FOR PARAGRAPH 4 OF

ARTICLE IV REGARDING A LIMIT ON THE INCREASE IN THE SIZE OF ICBM SILO LAUNCHERS. THE SOVIET DELEGATION ALSO PROPOSED THAT THE NEGOTIATING RECORD REFLECT A COMMON UNDERSTANDING TO THE EFFECT THAT THE WORD "ORIGINAL" IN PARAGRAPH 4 OF ARTICLE IV REFERS TO THE DIMENSIONS OF AN ICBM SILO LAUNCHER AS OF MAY 26, 1972 OR THE DATE ON WHICH SUCH LAUNCHER BECOMES OPERATIONAL, WHICHEVER IS LATER.

MR. MINISTER, IF THE SOVIET SIDE WILL AGREE TO THE SUBSTANCE OF THE U.S. PROPOSAL OF JANUARY 30 FOR PARAGRAPH 7 OF ARTICLE II OF THE JOINT DRAFT TEXT, I AM PREPARED TO AGREE TO THE SUBSTANCE OF THE PROPOSAL MADE BY THE SOVIET SIDE ON FEBRUARY 3 FOR PARAGRAPH 4 OF ARTICLE IV AND TO A COMMON UNDERSTANDING RELATING TO THE MEANING OF THE WORD "ORIGINAL" AS USED IN THAT ARTICLE.

ON JANUARY 30, I PROPOSED, IN ADDITION TO NEW LANGUAGE FOR PARAGRAPH 7 OF ARTICLE II, SIMILAR LANGUAGE FOR PARAGRAPH 7 OF ARTICLE IV OF THE JOINT DRAFT TEXT, WHICH ADDRESSES THE RELATED MATTER OF LIMITATIONS ON THE DESTRUCTIVE POTENTIAL OF HEAVY ICBMS. I PROPOSED THAT THE PARTIES AGREE NOT TO DEVELOP, TEST, OR DEPLOY AN ICBM WHICH HAS EITHER A LAUNCHING WEIGHT GREATER THAN THE HEAVIEST LAUNCHING WEIGHT OR A THROW-WEIGHT GREATER THAN THE HEAVIEST THROW-WEIGHT OF ANY ICBM DEPLOYED BY EITHER PARTY ON THE DATE OF SIGNATURE OF THE NEW AGREEMENT. MR. MINISTER, THE UNITED STATES CONSIDERS IT ESSENTIAL THAT AGREEMENT BE REACHED ON SUCH A CEILING.

IT IS MY HOPE THAT THE SOVIET SIDE WILL RESPOND FAVORABLY TO THESE PROPOSALS AND THAT IN DUE COURSE THEY CAN BE REFERRED TO THE DRAFTING WORKING GROUP FOR ANY REFINEMENTS IN LANGUAGE WHICH MAY BE REQUIRED.

II

MR. MINISTER, AN IMPORTANT ELEMENT IN THE FORMULATION FOR PARAGRAPH 7 OF ARTICLE II AND FOR PARAGRAPH 7 OF ARTICLE IV IS THE TERM "THROW-WEIGHT". ON MARCH 25, 1975, THE U.S. DELEGATION SUGGESTED A DEFINITION OF THROW-WEIGHT FOR USE IN OUR NEGOTIATIONS. WE HAVE GIVEN FURTHER CONSIDERATION TO THE DEFINITION WHICH WE TABLED AT THAT TIME AND HAVE CONCLUDED THAT A SIMPLER, YET EQUALLY

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COMPREHENSIVE, DEFINITION CAN BE FORMULATED. THEREFORE, IN PLACE OF THE DEFINITION OF MARCH 25, I NOW PROPOSE THE FOLLOWING DEFINITION FOR THROW-WEIGHT:

"THE THROW-WEIGHT OF A BALLISTIC MISSILE IS THE SUM OF THE WEIGHT OF: (1) ITS REENTRY VEHICLE OR VEHICLES, (2) ITS PENETRATION AIDS, AND (3) ANY BUSES OR OTHER DEVICES IT HAS FOR PROPULSION, GUIDANCE, CONTROL, OR

RELEASE WHICH CAN CAUSE MULTIPLE REENTRY VEHICLES OR
PENETRATION AIDS TO REENTER THE ATMOSPHERE AT DIFFERENT
LOCATIONS OR TIMES."

I PROPOSE THAT THIS DEFINITION BE INCORPORATED INTO THE NEW
AGREEMENT IN THE FORM OF AN AGREED STATEMENT.

III

IN THIS REGARD, I WOULD BE PLEASED TO LEARN THE VIEWS OF THE
SOVIET DELEGATION WITH RESPECT TO HOW THE TERM "LAUNCHING WEIGHT"
MIGHT BEST BE DEFINED.

JOHNSON

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NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: Z
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: TEXT, SALT (ARMS CONTROL), ICBM, SPEECHES
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 06 FEB 1976
Decaption Date: 28 MAY 2004
Decaption Note: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: coburnhl
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1976SALTT00012
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: X1
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D760046-0186
From: SALT TALKS
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1976/newtext/t19760274/aaaacmtz.tel
Line Count: 129
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION SS
Original Classification: SECRET
Original Handling Restrictions: EXDIS
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 3
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: SECRET
Previous Handling Restrictions: EXDIS
Reference: n/a
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: coburnhl
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 06 MAY 2004
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <06 MAY 2004 by BoyleJA>; APPROVED <01 SEP 2004 by coburnhl>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
04 MAY 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: AMBASSADOR JOHNSON'S STATEMENT OF FEBRUARY 6, 1976 (SALT TWO - 897)
TAGS: PARM, (JOHNSON, U ALEXIS)
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 04 MAY 2006